



FACT Sheet

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES

May 24, 2011

2010 federal Child and Family Services Review performance results

The 2010 Child and Family Services Review is the second comprehensive federal assessment of Washington's performance in the delivery of child welfare services to children and families.

Washington state performed better in the 2010 CFSR than in 2003, as indicated in the [Child and Family Services Review](#) received recently by the state Department of Social and Health Services from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

Results of the 2010 review

The review of the state's public child welfare system measures performance regarding child **safety**, **permanency** and **well-being**; and examines the infrastructure that supports the delivery of child welfare services, such as a statewide information system and a quality assurance system.

- The CFSR indicates that Washington underperformed in some areas regarding child safety, permanency and well-being.
- Key CFSR findings include areas of high performance, and identified four strengths:
 - Reducing Repeat Maltreatment (Safety)
 - Foster Care Re-Entry (Permanency)
 - Proximity of Placement (Permanency)
 - Physical Health of Child (Well-being)

In addition, the following were identified as high areas of performance, although not yet meeting the federal standards:

- Two of three outcomes for well-being were fairly high (above 80 percent), in which children receive services to meet:
 - Educational needs (Well-being)
 - Physical and mental health needs (Well-being)
- Placement with siblings and preserving connections (more than 85 percent) (Permanency).

Washington's 2010 Performance

The 2010 CFSR findings are consistent with previously-identified system strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Highest performance:

- Meeting the child's physical, mental health and educational needs

Mid-level performance:

- Preserving relations and connections for children in foster care
- Protecting children from abuse and neglect
- Safely maintaining children in their homes whenever possible

Greatest need for improvement:

- Enhancing the family's capacity to meet their child's needs,
- Timely permanence (reunification, adoption, etc.) for children

- The CFSR examined seven factors that indicate a foundation for service delivery is in place to support favorable child and family outcomes. Washington performed high on the following five:

- Statewide Information System
- Quality Assurance System
- State and Provider Training
- Agency Responsiveness to Community
- Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

The state needs to improve on the following two:

- Court Case Review System
- Service Array and Resource Development

- Washington now exceeds five of six national standards, and meets the sixth standard, indicating that Washington's child welfare reform efforts are already improving outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Washington is not required to include the national standards in the Program Improvement Plan.

Overview of the CFSR process:

The CFSR is a federal review, required of all state public child welfare systems. It analyzes how children and families served by state child welfare agencies progress as a result of their interactions with child welfare.

The CFSR process examines seven child and family safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes and seven systemic factors that indicate a foundation for service delivery is in place, including policies, practices, and technology.

The CFSR process incorporates the following:

- State agency submission of a data profile
- Completion of the statewide assessment by the state agency and partners
- On-site review with federal reviewers and Washington's partners, which includes:
 - in-depth evaluation of 65 child welfare cases
 - interviews, focus groups with families, foster parents, courts, staff, and service providers

Washington state was the last state to be reviewed in this round of the CFSR. All states were required to prepare and implement a Program Improvement Plan, as no state met all of the CFSR outcome measures and national standards. To view the status of all states' federal reviews, go to the [Children's Bureau website](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Sherry Hill](#), Children's Administration Communications Director, (360) 902-7892
[Jann Hoppler](#), Children's Administration CFSR Manager, (360) 902-7936

Opportunities for improvement:

As part of the Children's Administration continuous quality assurance process, the CFSR findings provided the state additional information to identify strengths and opportunities for child welfare system improvement.

In response to the CFSR, the Children's Administration is developing the required Program Improvement Plan to submit to the Children's Bureau in July 2011.

Foundational themes of the Program Improvement Plan include:

- Improving statewide consistency of practice
- Decreasing disproportionality
- Emphasis on quality assurance

Strategies being considered to meet federal performance criteria in the areas of child safety, permanency and well-being include:

- Improving child safety
- Increasing family engagement
- Increasing focus on permanency
- Improving the array and quality of services available to children and families